

Chairman Sizemore:

All right. Well, it is three o'clock so we can return to our meeting. And I would ask Commissioner Reeves and Commissioner Patterson to let me know you're here either verbally or by popping up on your camera.

Commissioner Patterson:

I'm here. Patterson.

Chairman Sizemore:

Okay. I see that you're both still with us. So we still have a quorum. I will now have us turn to Tab Eight on our agenda, which is a petition for Rule Change. A request for a repeal of rule requiring identification at the door and look at that it's Ashley Laden, making the presentation.

Ashley :

Hello.

Chairman Sizemore:

Hello, Ashley.

Ashley :

Chair as well as more commissioners and ex officios. I'm Ashley Laden the rules coordinator.

Ashley :

Molly Riley of Chehalis, Washington is proposing to repeal the rule that requires casinos to verify the identification of each patron entering their facility.

Ashley :

The petitioner feels this change is needed because it conflicts with other federal state or local laws and/or rules. And that it would be a kind consideration to patrons because casinos use methods to document patron identification, and therefore they should know their customers.

Ashley :

Well, the gambling act specifically RCW : 9.46.228 requires that you must be 18 to play card games, nothing in the act or rules requires card rooms, to ID each patron that enters their facility. Card rooms may have their own internal procedures for verifying the age of patrons. And therefore, this may be done by requiring patrons to show identification at the door.

Ashley :

Under the requirements of the administrative procedure act, the commission must take action on this petition within 60 days of receiving it. Your options are to accept the petition and initiate rulemaking proceedings by filing a rule as proposed for further discussion, or to deny the petition in writing stating the reasons for denial and specifically adjust the concern stated in the petition or where appropriate indicate alternative means by which the agency will address the concerns raised in the petition.

Ashley :

Staff recommends denial of this petition as no rule exists to repeal staff recommended the petitioner follow up with the card room and or casino directly to seek clarification and or resolution in this matter.

Ashley :

And I welcome any questions you may have.

Chairman Sizemore:

All right. Are there any questions for Ashley?

Chairman Sizemore:

So I'll ask Ashley, have you been able to have any dialogue with the petitioner?

Ashley :

So I had reached out via email and phone and was unable to reach the petitioner. And then late last night, I got a text message that clarified that the petitioner, what they were really wanting was that they didn't want to be carded repeatedly. And so for instance, if they get to the card room or the casino, and then they forget something in their car and go back out, they don't want to be carded again upon re-entry.

Ashley :

They did say that they didn't respond to me because they had already asked the administrator at the board. I'm assuming that might be the place that they visit frequent. And that person told them that they technically aren't required to check IDs. And so it was a decision made by the rule makers inside the casino.

Ashley :

So it sounds like it's been resolved, but by law, we're required to bring this to you until it's been withdrawn and it hadn't been withdrawn. So that's why I'm here with this petition.

Chairman Sizemore:

All right.

Ashley :

So that's where we're at.

Chairman Sizemore:

All right. Thank you.

Ashley :

You're welcome.

Chairman Sizemore:

I will ask if the petitioner has joined our meeting, Molly, are you with us?

Chairman Sizemore:

All right. We're not seeing her on the participant list and I haven't seen anybody raised their hand disappear she's with that. She's with us. Thanks for that briefing. Ashley, is there a motion?

Chairman Sizemore:

Commissioner Reeves?

Commissioner Reeves:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I moved to deny the petition in writing for all of the reasons presented by staff.

Chairman Sizemore:

Okay.

Commissioner Patterson:

I second that.

Chairman Sizemore:

All right. It has been moved and seconded to deny the petition for the reasons designated by staff. Any further discussion?

Chairman Sizemore:

All right, so the motion is a motion to deny. So all those in favor of denying the petition, please say, "aye".

Commissioner Patterson:

Aye.

Commissioner Reeves:

Aye.

Chairman Sizemore:

Aye.

Chairman Sizemore:

Any opposed? Motion carries three to zero. And we asked staff to reply to the petitioner in writing with the denial.

Chairman Sizemore:

Thank you. And with that, Ashley, I want to thank you for your stoic word today. We've had in the breach for several hours. So under the authority vested in me will declare 10/14/2021 is Ashley Laden Day.

Ashley :

Wow! Thank you!

Chairman Sizemore:

I don't have that much authority, so I don't know what it means.

Ashley :

It's okay, I'll take it!

Chairman Sizemore:

So with... Thank you. So with that, we will now move to Tab Nine, which is our agency director hiring discussion. And the presentation will be with Lisa Benevidez and as has been our standard during this process, I'll ask that vice chair Patterson, take the gavel.

Commissioner Patterson:

Thank you for the gavel, Mr. Chair, and Lisa, you have the floor. Go ahead.

Lisa Benevidez:

Thank you. Vice chair, Patterson. Good afternoon, commissioners and ex officios for the record. I'm Lisa Benevidez the HR director for the State Gambling Commission. I'm here today to provide an update on the status of the director hire. And as a reminder at the August 27th meeting, the commissioners determined which candidates that applied for the position would move forward to interview.

Lisa Benevidez:

Last week, we interviewed candidates for the position of the director for the command commission. The commissioners felt that they needed more time to discuss the qualifications of candidates. So I am working with each commissioner and their calendaring to determine when we might be able to get together for an executive session. So that's going to be the next step is another executive session that will be scheduled very likely in the next two weeks, where conversation will continue about the qualifications of candidate for director.

Lisa Benevidez:

After that meeting, commissioners will take action at a public meeting to determine which if any candidates will move forward for further consideration. So at this time that concludes my report unless anyone has any questions.

Commissioner Patterson:

Thanks, Lisa. Any questions of Lisa?

Commissioner Patterson:

Thank you, Mr. Chair, I'll hand you the gavel. Unless Senator Conway, were you going to ask a question?

Chairman Sizemore:

You're muted, sir. Sorry.

Senator Conway:

You know I just recognize that our state is very unique and having 29 recognized tribes that all do gaming are entangled in gaming. Some of them are not doing gaming, but they have an allocated machines for gaming. And I just hope that as we work through this process, that we're recognizing a factor in our decision-making.

Senator Conway:

I just would cite some of the issues we're having here today as evidence of the fact that we have a very unique gambling environment. And it just seems to me that I wanted to make that comment, because I hope that part of the consideration here is the trustee's new card.

Senator Conway:

And also keep in mind the importance of state law around this as well. So all this say as representatives, we want to make sure our candidate is familiar with hard legislative role as well. Thank you.

Commissioner Patterson:

We really appreciate the comment Senator Conway. Thank you.

Chairman Sizemore:

I'm not sure if you can see Vice-Chair, but Commissioner Reeves has her hand up.

Commissioner Patterson:

Yes, I can. Go ahead. Commissioner Reeves.

Commissioner Reeves:

Thank you. Vice Chair Patterson. And thanks for the recognition Chairman Sizemore at this time, I just wanted to comment on the work of our HR team for the public's benefit. We have gone from reviewing something like 40 plus applications to interviewing six candidates out of eight. I just, I really want to acknowledge that our HR team has put a lot of effort in this process. A lot of thought into it has been very intentional about access and equity in the work that they've done to get us this far and just really appreciate the public's patients. I think to Senator Conway's point, it is a very unique position that we are hiring for. And one that requires a great deal of thought and consideration about the roles and responsibilities of both running a law enforcement agency and a regulatory agency, and one then partnering with multiple tribes. So just really appreciate y'all's patience as we work through this, but really want to commend our HR staff on their fine work.

Lisa Benevidez:

Thank you, Commissioner Reeves. I'll pass that along.

Commissioner Patterson:

Really well said. Thank you, Commissioner Reeves.

Commissioner Patterson:

I cannot see if there are any hands up on my end. So just jump in if anyone else would like to speak at this time?

Chairman Sizemore:

It looks like you got everybody.

Commissioner Patterson:

All right, Mr. Chair I'll hand the gavel back over to you then.

Chairman Sizemore:

Thank you very much. And so that leaves simply with an opportunity for public comment.

Chairman Sizemore:

So we've certainly had public comment on specific topics during this meeting, but would like to open up the floor for any general public comment on the work that we're doing or work we should be doing. So is there anyone that would like to make public comment to the gambling commission today?

Chairman Sizemore:

And again, use the functionality if you can raise your hand. If you speak, go ahead and bring your camera up.

Chairman Sizemore:

I'm not seeing anyone wish to make public comment today, so I'll do a little good of the order. Any comments from commissioners? Go to the order?

Chairman Sizemore:

All right. Commissioner Reeves.

Commissioner Reeves:

Thank you, chair Sizemore. I just wanted to thank my fellow commissioners as you know, I had surgery last week and just really appreciate the patience and support that director Griffin and the HR team and others have shown as I'm going through recovery right now. Again, appreciate the public's willingness to not force me to be on camera today, but just wanted to comment and say thank you to all for your support and your patience this last couple of weeks.

Chairman Sizemore:

Very good. Thank you, Representative [inaudible].

Representative:

Thanks Mr. Chair. I just really want to thank all my colleagues that the discussion that was so constructive that we had about the voluntary self-exclusion program, I think really helped us get to best possible product. I mean, I think obviously I wish that there were something that we could do that was a little more high tech, but I do understand the limitations we have at the moment. And I really, really appreciate the language that was put into there about when we gain some future technological capacity

that we will revisit and see if there's another way we can do this other than paper and pen and snail mail.

Representative:

So thank you very much. And I really appreciate everybody's comments. I think really, really healthy, productive discussion on an issue. That's one of one my pet issues? And so thank you.

Chairman Sizemore:

All right, thank you. I'll simply add that last week. I, to the extent possible participated in a global gaming expo virtually certainly in the times that we're in, it didn't make sense to, to try to go to Vegas and be in person, but while I did feel like there was some content that was interesting and a little bit valuable, it really, I think drove into me the importance of when we can to be able to do those types of training and interactions in person and be able to do that. I think it's a very valuable opportunity for growth to be able to participate in those events that seeing what other folks around the country are doing. And to a degree, being able to know that we are kind of a lot of times, at least, and I could be wrong, but I feel like we're the gold standard. And a lot of people recognize that. So it was, it was somewhat informative, but certainly I think to the extent over the next year, when we have the opportunity, I look forward to actually being able to participate in person on these types of training conferences.

Chairman Sizemore:

So with that, anything from staff?

Chairman Sizemore:

Okay, our next meeting, again, virtual will be November 16th, keep an eye on the website or however you get your gambling commission notifications for a start time. And then we have added a meeting for December on December 7th. So same for that.

Chairman Sizemore:

So with that, we will adjourn with no other business before us. So we are adjourned. Thank you.